

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine
Washington, D. C.

B. E. P. Q.--464

IMPORTATION OF VINIFERA GRAPES AND CERTAIN OTHER DECIDUOUS
FRUITS SUBJECT TO IN-TRANSIT STERILIZATION AUTHORIZED

(Approved and effective Sept. 15, 1937)

It has been determined that the refrigeration treatment prescribed in circular B. E. P. Q.--463, as a condition for the entry of Vinifera grapes from regions in which the Mediterranean fruit fly occurs, can be completed while the fruit is in transit on ships equipped with adequate refrigeration facilities, provided the grapes have been cooled to the proper temperature before loading in refrigerated holds in the carrying vessels. It has also been determined that certain other deciduous fruits can be similarly treated.

The treatment prescribed in B. E. P. Q.--463, requires the cooling of the grapes until the approximate center of the fruit in the package reaches a temperature of 34° F. and holding it at or below that temperature for a period of 12 days.

On the basis of the above determination and under the authority of regulation 2 of the rules and regulations supplemental to Notice of Quarantine No. 56, grapes of the Vinifera type, and such other deciduous fruits as may be approved in the permit, which are prohibited entry in the fresh state because of the Mediterranean fruit fly, may therefore be entered under the following conditions:

- (1) Before being loaded they shall be cooled to a temperature of 32° F. under the supervision of an official designated by the Secretary of Agriculture, or one holding a comparable position, in the country concerned, in a plant approved for the purpose by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the United States Department of Agriculture.
- (2) The temperature of the grapes or other deciduous fruits shall in no case rise above 33° F. between the time they are taken from the precooling plant and the required refrigeration treatment is begun on the carrying vessel.
- (3) The grapes or other deciduous fruits shall be held at a temperature of 34° F. or below for a period of 12 days. Such treatment shall be applied only in vessels which have been approved by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the United States Department of Agriculture, and in particular holds or compartments designated by that Bureau for this purpose. Treatments must be completed in the holds or compartments in which they are begun.

- (4) Each container of grapes or other deciduous fruits to be imported into the United States under the provisions of this circular shall be marked by an appropriate label, or stencil, or stamp impression, which will enable identification at all times.
- (5) A certificate shall be issued in triplicate by an official designated by the Secretary of Agriculture or one holding a comparable position, in the country concerned, indicating compliance with the provisions of numbered paragraphs (1) and (2) of this circular. In addition this certificate shall give the identifying marks prescribed in paragraph number (4). The signatures and official position of those designated to sign this certificate shall be submitted to the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the United States Department of Agriculture in quadruplicate.
- (6) The original and one copy of the certificate required in numbered paragraph (4) hereof shall be verified by the American Consul at the port of export and shall accompany the shipment and be surrendered to the inspector of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the United States Department of Agriculture at the port of entry. The third copy will be retained by the consular office verifying the certification.
- (7) When requested, applicants for permits to import Vinifera grapes and certain other deciduous fruits under the provisions of this circular shall furnish or arrange to have furnished, blue prints, plans, specifications, or such other information as may be deemed necessary for considering precooling plants or carrying vessels, for approval by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the United States Department of Agriculture.
- (8) When requested, provisions shall be made to authorize representatives of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the United States Department of Agriculture, to inspect and carry on such tests as may be deemed necessary in or on precooling plants and carrying vessels for which approval has been requested under the provisions of this circular.
- (9) No permits will be issued for the importation of Vinifera grapes or other deciduous fruits under the provisions of this circular until the precooling plant at the port of loading and the hold, holds, or compartments of the carrying vessels in which the prescribed in-transit treatment is to be given have been approved by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the United States Department of Agriculture.

- (10) Carrying vessels must be equipped with approved temperature-recording instruments located, installed, operated, and maintained in a manner to be prescribed by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the United States Department of Agriculture, for each vessel.
- (11) Not more than 3 days prior to the lading of grapes or other deciduous fruits to be given in-transit sterilization as provided in this circular, the temperature-recording instruments of the hold, holds, or compartments approved for the purpose shall be tested for accuracy by an official designated by the Secretary of Agriculture, or one holding a comparable position, in the exporting country, and the thermograph record shall bear an endorsement of said official in form approximately as follows:

Port of Export _____

Date _____

The instruments installed for recording temperature within
compartment _____ of the S. S. or M. S. _____
which compartment is loaded with _____
covered by precooling certificate No. _____ of the _____
(Name of

_____, were tested by me at the place and on the
certifying Government agency)
date above indicated, and were accurate to within _____ ° F.

(If no adjustments were necessary, add a statement to that effect. If
adjustments were made, add a statement indicating their character.)

Signature _____
(Title of Certifying Officer.)

- (12) For entry under the provisions of this circular, there shall be surrendered to the inspector of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the United States Department of Agriculture at the port of transshipment or at the port of entry, the original thermograph record showing the temperatures maintained in the holds or compartments in which the fruit concerned was sterilized. When necessary, additional photostatic copies of such records shall be provided at the expense of the permittee.



-14-

- (13) Vinifera grapes or other deciduous fruits to be imported into the United States under the provisions of this circular shall not be unloaded from the carrying vessel until evidence satisfactory to the inspector of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the United States Department of Agriculture has been furnished showing that the grapes or other deciduous fruits have received the refrigeration treatment prescribed in this circular.
- (14) Whenever grapes or other deciduous fruits are offered for entry under the provisions of this circular and it cannot be established to the satisfaction of the inspector of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the United States Department of Agriculture that they have received the required refrigeration treatment, they shall either remain on the vessel under safeguards prescribed by the inspector of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine and under seal of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, or they shall be transported beyond the territorial limits of the United States under such safeguards as shall be prescribed by the inspector.
- (15) Vinifera grapes or other deciduous fruits may be imported under the provisions of this circular throughout the year and no restrictions are placed on the character of containers in which they shall be packed.
- (16) In authorizing the entry of Vinifera grapes and certain other deciduous fruits into the United States in accordance with the provisions of this circular, it should be emphasized that inexactness and carelessness in applying the treatment may result in injury to the fruit or its rejection. The treatment required for the entry of fruit under the provisions of this circular represents a requirement considered necessary for the elimination of pest risk and no liability shall attach to the United States Department of Agriculture or to any officer or representative of that Department in the event of injury resulting to fruit offered for entry under the provisions of this circular.

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